

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for applying a ventrally or dorsally directed translatory force onto a lower leg ~~(3)~~ in the area of a knee joint for treatment or follow-up treatment of knee instability, in particular cruciate ligament instability, with a thigh bar ~~(6)~~ which can be secured on a thigh ~~(1)~~, with a lower-leg bar device which acts on the lower leg ~~(3)~~, is coupled in an articulated manner to the thigh bar ~~(6)~~ and is operatively connected to a fixation device ~~(12)~~ that can be secured on the lower leg ~~(3)~~, and with a spring device which generates a defined pretensioning force and acts on the lower-leg bar device, characterized by the following features:
 - the lower-leg bar device has a shorter bar arm ~~(9)~~ and a longer bar arm ~~(10)~~, both bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ being able to swivel relative to the thigh bar ~~(6)~~,
 - the two bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ are arranged so as to be able to swivel relative to one another,
 - the shorter bar arm ~~(9)~~ is coupled at its distal end to the fixation device ~~(12)~~ in an area close to the knee, whereas the longer bar arm ~~(10)~~ is coupled with its distal end to the fixation device ~~(12)~~ in an area farther away from the knee,
 - the pretensioning force of the spring device acts between the shorter and longer bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ in such a way that the bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ are urged to execute a swiveling movement relative to each other, such that a ventrally or dorsally directed translatory force is applied to the fixation device ~~(12)~~ in the area close to the knee.
2. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the two bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ of the lower-leg bar device are able to swivel about the same swivel axis ~~(11)~~ situated at the distal end of the thigh bar ~~(6)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ are coupled at their distal ends by means of bolts ~~(15, 17)~~ which extend laterally outward from the fixation device ~~(12)~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ has, at its distal end, an oblong hole ~~(16)~~ into which a bolt ~~(15)~~ of the fixation device ~~(12)~~ protrudes, in order to couple the bar arm ~~(9)~~ to the fixation device ~~(12)~~ in a longitudinally displaceable manner.
5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fixation device ~~(12)~~ which can be secured on the lower leg ~~(2)~~ is made up of a half-shell ~~(13)~~, and the two bar arms ~~(9, 10)~~ are coupled to the half-shell ~~(13)~~ at the two opposite end areas of the half-shell ~~(13)~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the spring device comprises a flat coil spring ~~(29)~~ arranged in a spring housing ~~(19)~~ which is secured on one of the bar arms ~~(9)~~ and, together with the latter, can be swiveled relative to the thigh bar ~~(6)~~, the center axis of the spring housing ~~(19)~~ coinciding with the swivel axis ~~(11)~~.
7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the pretensioning force of the spring device can be adjusted by means of a toothed wheel gear located in the spring housing ~~(19)~~.
8. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the lower-leg bar device is mounted in an oblong hole ~~(46)~~ of the thigh bar ~~(6)~~ so as to be displaceable on the thigh bar ~~(6)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the oblong hole ~~(46)~~ extends in the longitudinal direction of the thigh bar ~~(6)~~.